

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A securing apparatus, ~~including comprising:~~
a deformable body, wherein the body is configured to provide a secure interference fit with at least one article to which it is fitted, and
an aperture within the body, wherein the aperture is configured to accept a releasing tool,
~~characterised in that~~wherein
the securing apparatus is only unlocked by the operation of the releasing tool with respect to the body and remains locked at all other times.
2. (Currently amended) ~~A~~The securing apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the body is permanently fixed to part of an article.
3. (Currently amended) ~~A~~The securing apparatus as claimed in claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ wherein the body is fitted to an article that is adjustable in length.
4. (Currently amended) ~~A~~The securing apparatus as claimed in claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ wherein the body joins a plurality of articles together.
5. (Currently amended) ~~A~~The securing apparatus as claimed in ~~any previous claim~~claim 1 wherein the body contains at least one slot that is substantially perpendicular to the aperture and which bisects at least one side of the aperture.
6. (Currently amended) ~~A~~The securing apparatus as claimed in claim 5 wherein the slot is terminated by a stress reduction device ~~such as~~which is a substantially circular hole.
7. (Currently amended) ~~A~~The securing apparatus as claimed in ~~any previous claim~~claim 1 wherein the body contains a plurality of apertures.
8. (Currently amended) ~~A~~The securing apparatus as claimed in claim 7 wherein the securing apparatus is configured to secure a plurality of articles, each of which can be released individually.
9. (Currently amended) ~~A~~The securing apparatus as claimed in ~~any previous claim~~claim 1 wherein the securing apparatus is configured so that the absence of the releasing tool from the aperture ensures that the securing device is in a locked position by default.
10. (Currently amended) ~~A~~The securing apparatus as claimed in ~~any previous claim~~claim 1 wherein the dimensions of the body of the securing device when the releasing tool

is not operated are such that the securing apparatus cannot be connected to the article to which it is to be secured.

11. (Currently amended) A ~~The~~ securing apparatus as claimed in ~~any previous claim~~claim 1 wherein the securing apparatus is constructed as part of an article to which at least one other article can be secured.

12. (Currently amended) A ~~The~~ securing apparatus as claimed in ~~any previous claim~~claim 1 wherein the body is configured to include at least one seal that itself is configured to stop any leakage of material from within a secured article.

13. (Currently amended) A ~~The~~ securing apparatus as claimed in ~~any previous claim~~claim 1 wherein the internal shape of the body is non-circular.

14. (Currently amended) A ~~The~~ securing apparatus as claimed in claim 13 wherein the internal shape of the body is oval.

15. (Currently amended) A ~~The~~ securing apparatus as claimed in ~~any previous claim~~claim 1 wherein at least one article to be secured is tubular.

16. (Currently amended) A ~~The~~ securing apparatus as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to claim 14~~claim 1 wherein at least one article to be secured is solid.

17. (Currently amended) A securing apparatus, ~~including comprising:~~

a deformable body, wherein the body is configured to provide a secure interference fit with at least one article to which it is fitted, and

an aperture within the body, wherein the aperture is configured to accept a releasing tool,

~~characterised by the step of~~

~~inserting~~wherein the releasing tool is inserted within the aperture until the securing apparatus is unlocked.

18. (Currently amended) A securing apparatus, ~~including comprising:~~

a deformable body, wherein the body is configured to provide a secure interference fit with at least one article to which it is fitted, and

an aperture within the body, wherein the aperture is configured to accept a releasing tool,

~~characterised by the step of~~

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~~inserting and partially rotating wherein~~ the releasing tool is inserted and partially rotated within the aperture until the securing apparatus is unlocked.

19. (Currently amended) A releasing tool for a securing apparatus as claimed in ~~any previous claims~~claim 1 wherein the releasing tool includes a non-circular section.

20. (Currently amended) A releasing tool for a securing apparatus as claimed in ~~any of to claims 1 to 18~~claim 1 wherein the releasing tool contains a threaded section that is configured so that the securing apparatus is unlocked by inserting the releasing tool into a complementary threaded area of the securing apparatus, to a point where the required widening of an area of the aperture is achieved.

21. (Currently amended) A releasing tool for a securing apparatus as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 18~~claim 1 wherein the releasing tool contains a non-uniform section that is configured so that the insertion of the releasing tool within the aperture will cause the aperture to spread to a point where the required widening of an area of the aperture is achieved.

22. (Currently amended) A releasing tool for a securing apparatus as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 18~~claim 1 wherein the releasing tool remains attached to the mechanism even when the securing apparatus is locked.

23-25. (Cancelled)